

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

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The Truth at Work.

Driven to bay by the Democratic revolt in Congress, President Wilson has at last disclosed the limitations which he thinks should be put upon the diplomacy through which he and Mr. Lansing have been seeking to maintain peace with Germany. Naturally angered at the waivers of right which the Democrats in Congress are willing to concede in order to avoid friction, he has served notice that he will not be a party to any open abandonment of honor and self-respect. He does not want the sort of peace that can be bought only by national humiliation.

In announcing that he is not for peace, unless it is based on honor, the President bluntly dispels the illusion under which most of the Democrats in Congress have been supporting his diplomacy. They have believed that his policy aimed at preserving peace, even if it were necessary now and then to admit a slight discount on honor. They have lost no opportunity to say that whatever else the President's policy had failed to accomplish it has at least kept the country at peace. Those who criticized the Administration's diplomacy were loudly accused of seeking to plunge the nation into war. The tortuousness of the negotiations with Germany; their failure to make good the warning of the "strict accountability" note of February 10, 1915; the painful lack of correspondence in them between phrases and action—all these were interpreted by the Democrats in Congress as evidences of the Administration's willingness to accept peace without haggling over the price.

The Democratic party in the House, if not in the Senate, was in sympathy with Mr. Bryan when he advanced the idea that there could be no possible trouble with Germany over violations of the rules of warfare at sea if only American citizens were forbidden to travel on belligerent merchant ships or on ships carrying munitions. It accepted Mr. Bryan's assurance that he and Mr. Wilson were agreed as to the necessity of maintaining peace, differing only as to methods. Therefore it has viewed with growing irritation in the last few days what it considered an inclination on the President's part to allow the question of maintaining peace to be complicated by embarrassing considerations of neutral rights and national honor.

The explosion of Tuesday and Wednesday last was bound to come, because the Democrats in Congress misconceived the policy which the President was following. It was not a peace-at-any-price policy, such as Mr. Bryan would have stuck to. In form and phrase it was aggressive and combative, although in spirit it was thoroughly pacific. When the pinch came, however, the President was unwilling to repudiate phrases which most of the Democrats in Congress were entirely willing to sacrifice in order to avoid further friction.

The Democratic party in Washington was held together by the fiction that the "masterly diplomacy" of the Administration had kept the country out of war and could be depended upon to keep the country out of war indefinitely, no matter what might happen. Mr. Wilson's letter to Senator Stone has shattered that fiction. The Democratic leaders in the House are incensed at the President for telling the country the truth—for compelling them to seek hyphenated support at the polls by openly advocating a surrender of American rights in Germany's interest. Mr. Wilson's refusal to participate in that baseless leaves the Democrats in Congress stripped of all pretense of patriotic feeling and service—condemned by their own President as men who are ready to yield what "the United States cannot yield without conceding her own impotency as a nation and making a virtual surrender of her independent position among the nations of the world."

There is much biting and wholesome truth in Mr. Wilson's letter to Senator Stone. There is also some truth that cuts the other way in Senator Stone's letter to the President. If the Democratic party is torn to pieces over Mr. Wilson's foreign policy, the fault is not all on one side. Mr. Stone reports that Democratic Congressmen are suspicious that the President is getting up a scare over relations with Germany merely in order to promote his military preparedness legislation. Even Democratic leaders feel that the Administration has yielded in a large measure to the exigencies of domestic politics in formulating its foreign policy. They are no longer constrained by loyalty from complaining that in the present stage of the controversy with Germany the President still puts the necessity of obtaining a paper "diplomatic victory" or the success of his preparedness programme before every other object.

Mr. Stone also refers to the remarkable circular issued by Secretary Lansing to the Allied powers in which this intimation of a change of policy on our govern-

ment's part toward armed merchantmen was given:

"I should add that my government, is impressed with the reasonableness of the argument that a merchant vessel carrying armament of any sort, in view of the character of the submarine warfare and the defensive weakness of undersea craft, should be held to be an auxiliary cruiser and so treated by a neutral as well as by a belligerent government, and is seriously considering instructing its officials accordingly."

This statement has never been publicly withdrawn. Democratic Congressmen are therefore unable to see how the surrender of American rights which it suggests differs in heinousness from the surrender involved in the passage of a resolution forbidding Americans to travel on armed belligerent merchantmen. The State Department is manifestly not without blame for the misconceptions of national honor and duty which are so prevalent to-day in Democratic ranks at the Capitol. Mr. Wilson is undoubtedly right now. But Mr. Lansing was not right a couple of weeks ago.

It is well for both sides in the present party war that the truth should have free course. The work it is doing will dissipate much false pretence and may help to create eventually in quarters where it is most needed a higher sense of national honor and patriotic duty.

Women, Uplift and the Weed.

Not since that eminent Puritan "Little Tim" Sullivan passed to his reward has there been an authoritative voice raised in this town against smoking by women. "Little Tim," if our memory is not at fault, introduced into the Board of Aldermen an ordinance forbidding smoking on the part of women in any public restaurants or places of entertainment, though what became of this futile protest against the resistless tide of emancipatory progress, whether it failed of passage or was passed and forgotten, we can't recall. In any case, though seriously debated only a few short years ago, if sounds, in the light of present practice and tolerance, like one of the blue laws of Connecticut. A gulf divides that day of ancient prejudice and this.

The new Women's City Club, on the eighteenth floor of the Vanderbilt Hotel, is a product of the times, and no more emphatically than in its rules regarding smoking. To-day its members may smoke in every room in the club, though Miss Marjorie Driscoll, the manager, is seriously considering setting apart one room as a non-smoking room, a pronounced concession. The ladies meet there to discuss prison reform, pure milk, better schools, clean streets—all in a haze of incense from the fragrant weed. How "Little Tim" would have backed such an institution of uplift as a sink of female depravity, an example in debauchery to the youth of the city! Yet to-day no pious son of the Wigwam appears eager to assail these reformers for their odor of cigarette smoke. And as for the rest of us, we are half inclined to believe that the measures formulated by this public spirited organization will be all the better for their conception between puffs. Smoking induces greater contemplation, discourages gossip, calms the emotions. In brief, it turns talkers into listeners. In a women's club could one ask more of any agency?

Again Seeking Blood-Money.

Defeated last year in their endeavor to localize a twelve-hour day and seven days of work a week for women and children, the upstate canners have renewed their campaign. They do not have to go to the Legislature this year. The State Industrial Commission, three of whose members have been charged with neglect of duty resulting in the horrible Williamsburg fire, can grant the petition of the canners by adopting special exemptions. And, unfortunately, there appears to be some disposition to do it.

Lawyers for the canners argue that the present laws are unenforceable. The people in the localities want to work extra hours, they assert; and it is practically impossible to find a jury to convict a canner of violations of the labor law. Strange to say, Messrs. Lynch and Mitchell, both labor union men, seem to agree with them to the extent of conceding that unenforceable laws are useless.

If that is to be the stand of the Industrial Commission the whole fabric of the labor laws might as well be thrown into the dust-heap. If they are going to admit that because certain grasping canners, seeking to coin the sweat and blood of women and minor employees into profits, deliberately break the laws those laws should be repealed, they are officials false to their trust and recreant to all humanitarian tenets.

The fact that criminals exist is no argument against maintenance of the laws which they break. In the present instance the situation is easily understood. The canners are the big men in their vicinity. All the farmers round about want to sell produce to them and are under their control to that extent. What seems to be the interest of the canner becomes the farmers' interest. As jurymen, obviously they will be, and are, reluctant to return a verdict against their friends and partners, the canners. Under the circumstances it is easy for some unscrupulous canners to break the laws. They find no difficulty in forcing women and minors to work illegal hours, for if one will not that individual loses the job and another is hired who will. Under such competition systematic law-breaking is established.

This condition is far from general, however, according to a report made by Labor Commissioner Lynch in 1914, after several months' experience with the law. He declared then that "the fact that so many canners conducted their business without violation of law" argued for the merit of that statute. He added: "Following, therefore, this principle that it is the standard of the law-abiding rather than the law-evading employer which should

be maintained, it is recommended that the present law should not be changed."

There is no more reason why the law should be changed or evaded now than when those words were written. It would be a burning shame on the state and the officials who permitted it, if the crooked canners were upheld in their course of exploiting women and children by any changes made to legalize their practices.

After Nicaragua, Hayti.

The ratification of the Nicaraguan treaty logically commits the Senate to a ratification of the treaty with Hayti. The United States purchased a canal right of way across Nicaragua and three naval bases, one on the Pacific side and two in the Caribbean Sea, in order to make secure its possession and use of the Panama Canal. The treaty establishing a partial protectorate over Hayti has the same object. Its ratification by the Senate (Hayti has already ratified it) would prevent the acquisition of coaling station and other harbor privileges in Hayti by corporations acting as secret agents for European governments.

We agree to restore order in the Black Republic, to see that its debts are liquidated and its credit is reestablished, while the Haytiens agree to safeguard our interests so far as military and political control in the Caribbean is concerned. Hayti has been the chief danger spot for American policy in the Antilles. We have succeeded in eliminating the Dominican Republic as a reckless borrower and careless debtor, allowing dangerous foreign claims to pile up with no intention or means of meeting them. But Hayti has been a worse financier even than the Dominican Republic, and her greater commerce and better and more numerous harbors have made her a more tempting prey to the designs of creditors planning to exact not only cash but semi-political concessions in settlement.

In going into Hayti we act as a policeman—as a benevolent guardian of our weaker neighbors. We discharge a duty to an harassed and plundered nation. We engage ourselves to give the Haytiens a fresh chance to live and to work in security and to enjoy the prosperity which must come to them if they take the trouble to deserve it. We freed Cuba from the incubus of Spanish misgovernment. We are volunteering to free the Haytiens from their own misgovernment. There is an element of altruism in this enterprise which would commend it to American feeling even if we were to get no practical advantage out of our protectorate.

But there is still a larger element of self-interest and self-protection in our undertaking. By ratifying the treaty the Senate will therefore not only be extending a helping hand to a small American nation, debt-ridden, discouraged and harried by revolution. It will also be strengthening the position of the United States in a region in which we must assume a larger measure of political control in order to maintain the Monroe Doctrine and to reap the full benefits, commercial and military, of the great work for civilization which we have just completed at Panama.

With Jess Willard absent, the West may look more kindly on preparedness.

What will Bryan do with that iron cross when he gets it?

It became in reality the soupway for a time.

Fewer Railroad Accidents.

(From The Boston Herald.)

Fewer passengers were killed on American railroads in 1915 than in any year since 1898, and when we go back so far as that we find the railroads doing less than four-fifths of their present passenger business.

The number of employees killed in 1915 was less than any other year since 1898, which seems to have been a record-breaker in its day. And there were then only half as many employees as there are now.

In the number injured we have just had the best year for passengers since 1906, and for employees since 1911, returns which score not quite so much advance as in the list of deaths, but still a material improvement.

By comparison with 1914, the year just closed marked, according to "The Railway Age Gazette," "the greatest improvement in safety of operation ever recorded in a single year." And the figures are taken from the annual bulletin of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

"Train accidents," in distinction from "crossing accidents"—in which the public is usually half to blame—reveal a large improvement. In 1910 train accidents killed 932 persons, and then in the succeeding years the following numbers, respectively, 867, 859, 849, 626 and 410.

What are the causes of this very gratifying progress? Steel cars, the perfection of block system, the electric control of the pneumatic brake and the "safety first" campaigns.

The Washington Arch.

Gateway of splendor! To the name of him Who built the legend of our liberty We linger silent in the shadows dim To greet again the legend of the free. Winter's white chain has fallen from the earth, Sunshine droops sweet against the listening sky, Victories glorious again have birth Wrapped in the cloud mist where the colors fly.

Hark to the armies marching through the years— The drums, the bugle call, the sword, the shield, The camp fires' signal and the ringing cheers— The brave white faces on the battle-field. Our dead call to us from that garden grave, Salute the flag! Above the granite arch Waken once more—oh, children of the brave!

Look up! Beyond the gateway as you march The glory of the Springtime sky is red. Voices of heroes call! Again be free! Sons of our fathers—by the blood they shed! March on—March on! for God and Liberty!

KATE MASTERSON.

LA FOLLETTE'S FOLLY

A Seaman's Estimate of the Provisions of the Seaman's Act.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: You will perhaps pardon a man who has served before and aft the mast for a few remarks concerning that monstrous—called the seaman's act. A more fitting title would be "An act to strangle American commerce." Devised by a California labor agitator and that insatiable Senator from Wisconsin, it is one of the worst pieces of legislation forced upon the country by the wild-eyed theorists who compose the majority of the present Congress.

Section 13 of the seaman's act provides that no vessel of 100 tons or over shall clear from any port in the United States unless she has on board a crew 75 per cent of whom are able to understand the orders of the officers. Forty per cent of the deck crew must be certified able seamen. To obtain such a certificate a man must have had three years' experience and have passed a physical examination as to eyesight and fitness for duty as a sailor. In practice this reduces the number of eligibles so much that a strike for any cause would tie up vessels in every port of the United States.

A captain of an American vessel told me of an experience he had with a man who carried one of these certificates. The man was a landlubber; didn't know anything about a ship; had never been to sea. When questioned as to the possession of an A. B. certificate, he said he bought it on South Street for half a dollar of a sailor who said he could easily secure another.

Another section provides that when an American vessel touches a port each sailor on board shall receive from the master on demand one-half the wages due him. This secures for the master the delightful task of working ship with a drunken crew.

On page 84 of the law governing the Steamboat Inspection Service provision is made that vessels of 400 feet and under shall have twelve cork rings, six of which shall be luminous and one on each side provided with a line of not less than fifteen fathoms. In other words, a New York Harbor tug of fifty feet length and crew of three men is required to carry the same lifesaving equipment as an ocean liner.

And this is not all. Any foreign vessel can come under the American flag without inspection for two years, and any old equipment will pass muster.

In conclusion I would ask, is it any wonder that we are the laughing-stock and scorn of every foreign country? NAUTICUS.

Brooklyn, Feb. 20, 1916.

A Paper Army or a Real Army?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I wish that your admirable editorial under the above title in to-day's issue could be copied by every newspaper in the land, and that every citizen interested in preparedness would call it to the attention of his Senator as expressive of his views of the requirements of the situation.

It is now so clear that all other plans save the paper militia plan have been done to death in the House that our last hope with this Administration rests in the Senate, where we are told that a substantial increase in the regular army is in course of receiving careful attention.

"Our military necessities in the opinion of those best qualified to judge," as you so well say, "require a permanent first line force under arms of 250,000."

But "those best qualified to judge" are precisely the people that the House ignores. This body of three hundred and odd well meaning and ordinarily intelligent laymen stands charged with the duty to decide what is essentially an expert question, and these gentlemen, as ignorant of the military art as the rest of us, have not hesitated to set against their own views on this life and death matter the views of all the competent experts.

Qualified experts have assured us that a federalized militia can never become a modern field force for adequate defense—either by one and a half hours' drill a week in an armory or by Federal pay, or by anything that forty-eight sovereign states and the Federal government can separately or together do for it.

The Senate should be supported in insisting upon the views of a regular army, enlarging to the number advocated by the more conservative military experts to whom the Senate at least seems inclined to listen.

CHARLES ROBINSON SMITH.

New York, Feb. 23, 1916.

Mr. Read Testified.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In an editorial appearing in this morning's paper you state:

"Mr. Read, fortunately, is alive, and from the description Mr. Shonts has given of him should provide entertaining testimony."

The above creates an impression that Mr. Read has not testified, and I ask permission to call your attention to the fact that he testified before the Thompson legislative committee on September 29, 1915. I quote the following from his testimony:

Q. Did you know, Mr. Read, of any statement being made by any one in the board of directors that had been raised by voluntary contributions for the purpose of promoting the execution of the dual contracts, so called? A. No, sir.

Q. Ever hear that subject discussed? A. No, sir.

Q. Either in or out of the board? A. No, sir.

Q. Had you any reasons to suppose at the time that proposition was presented for the approval of the executive committee that such fund had been created and expended? A. No, sir.

Q. Don't you think Mr. Shonts had some other object? A. No.

Q. Didn't the intention occur to you that there might be something behind a thing like this? A. I don't like to have suspicions.

T. P. SHONTS, President.

New York, Feb. 21, 1916.

Filipino Heterogeneity.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Suppose Mantonah, who was a pretty shrewd old Narragansett, had agitated for the independence of the American Indians, and Pitt or Burke had been taken with the idea and voted to cut loose (no one pressing home the inquiry, "Which Indians, Putes, Comanches, Iroquois or Sioux?"), how does this materially differ from the present situation, where the Tagalogs of Luzon are agitating for the independence of all the Filipinos, Negritos, Igorrotes, Visayas, Moros—the forefathers Tagalogs having never made a pretense of controlling the Moros and there being not the faintest resemblance to the Cuban situation, where a homogeneous people knew what they wanted and could be dealt with as a whole? RICHARD WELLING.

New York, Feb. 19, 1916.

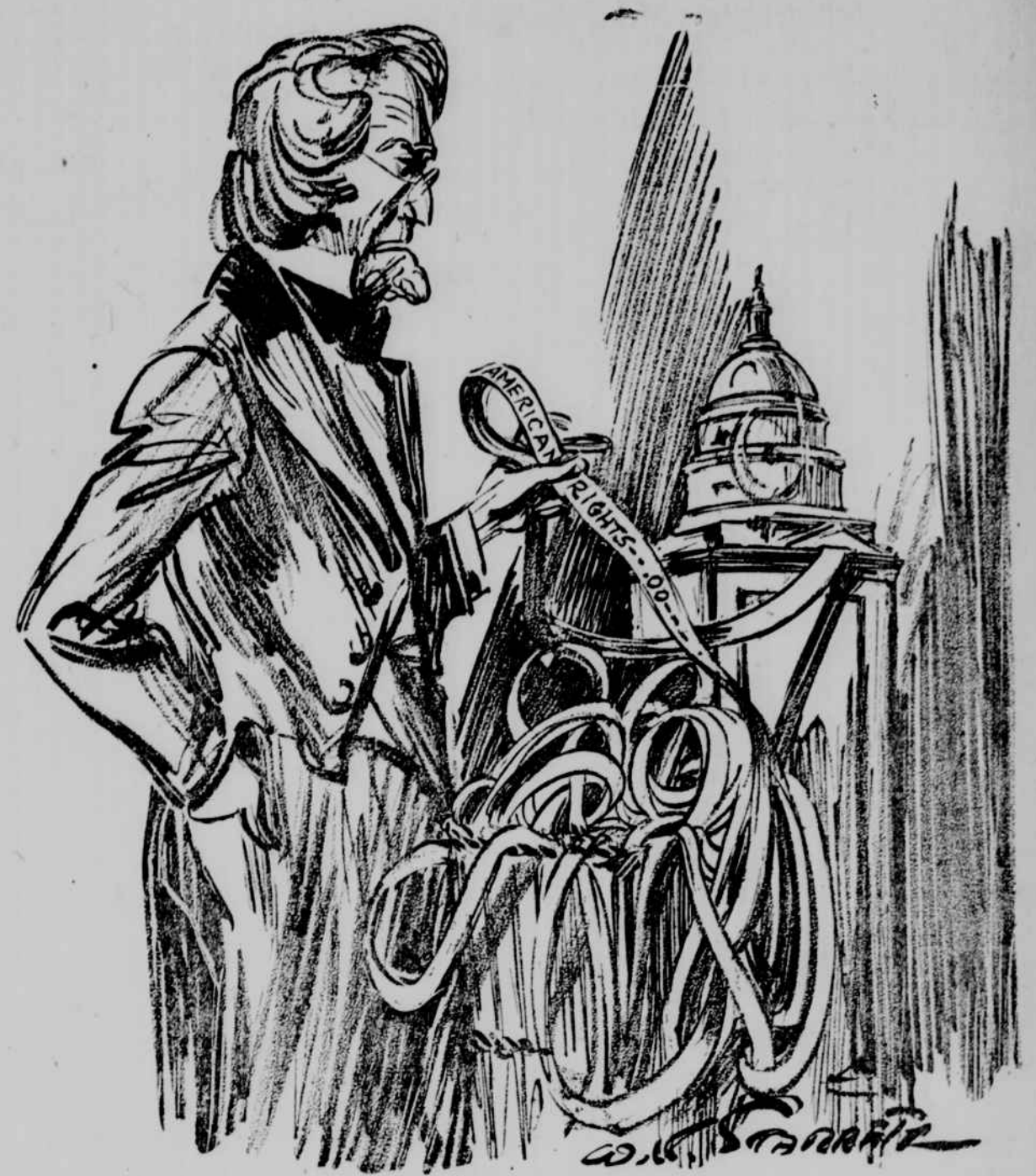
Germany's Submarines.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Because submarine cruisers are capable, as ordinary cruisers are not, of diving under the water at will, the Germans claim that they can set aside the laws of naval warfare relating to search and capture as applied to ordinary cruisers, and that they are justified in setting up a new code marked by ruthless outrage. VERO LIMOND.

New York, Feb. 20, 1916.

BANKRUPT?



EXPLOSIONS FROM A NEUTRAL

Uncle Sam Holds the Whip Hand, Yet He Allows Himself To Be Bullied by Both Sides, While the God of Luck Alone Keeps Him Out of War—Little Choice in Belligerents.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have an idea that I am wasting my time in writing to you, for our great American "free press" rarely publishes anything with which it disagrees. One must hunt up a Republican paper for a Republican letter, a Democratic paper for a Democratic letter, an Anglo-American paper for British propaganda, and another hyphenated organ for German propaganda. When a fellow is just plain American, and a neutral besides, he stands as much show as the proverbial dove with wax wings trying to fly over hedges.

I have read pleas for "British civilization" and "German Kultur" until I have arrived at the conclusion that the English writers who are raving should be on salary from the Kaiser and the German professors should be pensioned by the British. Every time I hear British lunacy I am pro-German, and the rot from the Fatherland always makes me pro-Ally. But I read it all.

The great Tribune, whose motto is "truth," hyphenated according to the prevailing style in which truth is exhibited nowadays, hates Germany. It screams against Lansing's note to the powers asking for a square deal for the submarines. It is afraid, since the when ordered to do so by the British, presumably, that it will not be "firm" enough in seeking war with Germany. I hate Germany, too—for its "Kultur," its egotism and its inhuman ideals of mechanical "efficiency." But I know, as The Tribune knows, that Germany has never got a square deal in the press or from the politicians of this country.

I am plain American, with a family that has fought in every war in this country since 1776. I have served my country and did my little bit in the jungles of the Philippines and on the walls of Peking. I am willing to go out and coach a regiment on the firing line to uphold the ideals of American democracy and to protect my country from invasion of her territory or "rights."

But, frankly, I am too proud of my manhood and intelligence to prostitute them to the services of a munitions trust and a subsidized press-bonding every effort to urge a weak Administration to wage war on Germany.

The latest proposal is for the United States to tear up her treaty of 1823 with Germany and hand over the Appam to the British. Yet how the people who will consider this a beautiful evidence of "neutrality" on our part wonder when Germany disavows her treaty of 1833 with Belgium! Certainly it was a crime on Germany's part to invade Belgium, after asking permission to march troops across her territory and being refused. But the Allies did the same with Greece—only Greece saved herself by weakly submitting to the invasion instead of fighting for her neutrality, as brave Belgium did. The British warships were cleared for action against Greece and everything else was in readiness to Belgiumize her when she surrendered her honor to the Allies.

The only difference between Greece and Belgium was that poor Belgium was fooled by the bark of the big British bull. He promised to be right over to devour the invading dachshund if the Belgians would just hold him awhile. The Belgians did, but the British bulldog has not got yet. Yet this great empire on which the sun never sets, is holding a smaller part of the line than Albert and his heroic Belgians, according to recent reports.

Germany should be taught that machinery cannot trample on the ideals of civilization, and England should be taught that her money cannot buy her what she is unwilling to fight for.

The great trouble is that the most injured countries, France, Belgium, Serbia and Poland, are the most innocent. They have been the sufferers from the rivalry and jealousy between British navalism and German militarism, between imperial British capitalism and imperial German socialism.

But America has had the chance right along to be free. She has the whip hand on both the bulldog and the dachshund. The old bulldog is toothless without America, and without her the dachshund can hardly eat. Instead of standing before the world as a powerful neutral, commanding

respect, America has become a laughing stock to both sides because of her willingness to be bullied by British or German.

The god of good luck has kept her out of the war—not Wilson's weakness. Wilson would go to war to-morrow if some strong man told him to "change his mind" and guaranteed his re-election.

The whole situation is disgusting to the average American, who can look at it from the standpoint of patriotism instead of politics. When the British confiscate our cotton and destroy our mail we could say: "Look here, John, stop that or we will confiscate your ammunition." But we are afraid. We are afraid of losing a few filthy dollars, afraid John might not like our "firmness" and that the munition makers might get peeved.

When the Germans raise the dickens from the deep and otherwise we could say: "Look here, Hans, no more of that, or we will confiscate one of your great liners in our ports for every non-combatant who loses his life unjustly through your submarines."

But we do neither. We must beg permission from his imperial Britannic majesty even to give milk to German babies; we must call munition fires "accidents," so that no German voter will be absent at the next election!

It is a farce-comedy to the average American, who believes that this is a nation and neither a colony of the Kaiser's nor an outpost of the King's.

JAMES EMERSON, JR.

New York, Feb. 23, 1916.

"Water Wagon Week."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In "Plans for Water Wagon Week" you say: "That something short of total abstinence is safe for very many is manifest to any unprejudiced observer."

Sure! Can you pick out in advance of the trial of the effect of booze on any given bunch of men which ones belong in your "many"? After the trial has proved (as it also often "manifests" to any unprejudiced observer) that very many of those who thought they were in the immune class were not immune, what then is to be done?

Is it an unfair figure of speech to say that every human being who hits the booze trail is approaching an indefinite and invisible line which, once passed, is by many impossible of recrossing? Where that line is a question for each one. Some never reach it, and consequently think it doesn't exist; others find to their dismay that they have unknowingly crossed it and have left behind either the ability or desire, or both, to retrace their steps. What about them? Is it their fault? Should they have known they could not turn back? Yes, but how were they to know if they follow the counsel fairly implied in your editorial?

If you came back with the usual "They could quit if they wanted to" argument, what shall we say of the "very many" who, not having in any other phase of life weak wills, do not retrace their steps to respectability, even when every conceivable reason for doing so is as evident to them as to you or me? If a fairly intelligent man fails to do what every possible motive of self-interest urges him to do, how shall we account for so strange a phenomenon? Not, surely, by simply calling him feeble-minded, when his other phases of mentality are average or tolerable. Is there any other conclusion than that he doesn't quit because he can't?

A man many years ago asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" and much of the world since has answered, "Theoretically, yes." But theoretically or practically, is it not true morally?

H. H. H.

Brooklyn, Feb. 20, 1916.

A Correction.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Will you correct a news item from Montclair in to-day's paper? Your correspondent made John R. Howard and myself say that Henry Ward Beecher and Phillips Brooks did not believe or preach the "doctrine of incarnation." If he had said the "doctrine of reincarnation" he would have correctly stated the matter in dispute.

HENRY KING HANNAH.

Montclair, N. J., Feb. 21, 1916.

NEW INSPECTION METHODS

The Fire Commissioner Explains Proposed Improvements Bill.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Owing to doubt of the fact that only a summary instead of the bill itself was before you, your editorial of to-day entitled "Better Building Inspection" was evidently written under the misapprehension that the new building inspections bill provides that the new Board of Standards and Appeals shall issue building orders and have a force of inspectors and that the building superintendents are to sit in review upon their own orders. While it is true that the building superintendents under this new bill are to be members of the Board of Standards and Appeals, they are such for the purpose of making building standards only, and they will not sit or have a vote upon any appeal.

As to the Board of Standards and Appeals, that body as provided for in the new bill is not to be an administrative body at all, but only a standard making body and court of review, and consequently it will neither maintain a force of inspectors nor issue any orders. In addition to adopting standards and rules and regulations it will decide appeals from orders of the Fire Commissioner and building superintendents, and so far as possible such decisions will be in the form of binding and permanent precedents.

The two principal inspection forces to be maintained for buildings, outside of tenement houses, will be those of the building superintendents, which will inspect actual construction work while in progress, and those of the Fire Department, which will inspect all buildings, except tenements, to see that they are provided with the necessary exits, fire extinguishing appliances and other fire protection as required by the labor law, the building code and the rules and regulations of the Board of Standards and Appeals. The Fire Department will continue to issue orders for the correction of conditions in existing buildings, and in addition will in future exercise similar power with respect to factory buildings.

In a word, the bill eliminates the State Labor Department from the enforcement of fire prevention and safety requirements in factories in the City of New York and transfers that power, so far as relates to the supervision of actual construction, to the building superintendents, and so far as relates to the enforcement of fire protection and exits in existing factories, to the Fire Department. When the Fire Department issues an order for an alteration in a factory or any other building a copy of the order will be sent to the building superintendent of the borough where the building is located, and the building superintendent will see that the work is done in accordance with law. By this arrangement a single structural inspection is to be made to answer the purposes of both departments, the Fire Department under the new plan accepting the certificate of the building superintendents that the work in its structural features complies with existing laws and standards.

The bill seeks to confine the Fire Department and Building Bureau in